

# **FACT SHEET**

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**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT  
FACT SHEET FOR A DRAFT PERMIT (RENEWAL)  
HAWTHORNE ARMY DEPOT NEW BOMB HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY  
EPA ID #NV5210090010  
DRAFT PERMIT NUMBER NEV HW0020**

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The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has developed this FACT SHEET for the draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit (DRAFT PERMIT) which NDEP intends to issue Hawthorne Army Depot for their New Bomb facility in Mineral County, Nevada. The DRAFT PERMIT is based on the renewal application received by NDEP from DZHC for the continued operation of this hazardous waste management facility. This FACT SHEET has been prepared in accordance with the public notice requirements of *Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 444.8632* and *Chapter 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 124.8*. The purpose of this FACT SHEET is to provide interested citizens and other governmental agencies a summary description of the principal facts and significant issues NDEP has considered in preparing the draft permit.

## **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

The Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD) New Bomb facility is located 22 miles south of Hawthorne, Nevada on approximately 3183 acres of land in the Toiyabe National Forest, southwest of Walker Lake in Mineral County, Nevada. The New Bomb facility is a government-owned contractor-operated area where treatment by detonation of waste munitions is performed. The Detonation Unit will treat unusable waste explosive munitions that are considered RCRA hazardous waste generated from the storage facilities at the HWAD Main Base facility. The HWAD contractor Day & Zimmermann Hawthorne Corporation (DZHC) performs the detonation with oversight by the US Army.

Detonations are conducted above ground to reduce downwind dust concentrations and reduce potential products of incomplete combustion.

No storage of munitions occurs at the New Bomb facility. Waste munitions are detonated the same day they arrive.

The New Bomb Detonation Unit covers 743 acres within the approximately 3183 acre New Bomb area, and is used for deactivation by detonation of explosive munitions that are unserviceable, unstable or where there is no market for reuse, recycling, or reutilization. Explosive items typically detonated at New Bomb consist of cartridges, projectiles, bombs, rockets, artillery, and mortar. When safety and regulatory requirements allow, explosive munitions will be processed or treated at the HWAD Main Base Western Area Demilitarization Facility (WADF). The New Bomb Detonation Unit consists of 20, 20 foot by 6 foot by 4 foot deep earthen pits (10 on each side) at the north and south bases of an east-to-west oriented hill, surrounded by a box canyon within the 743 acre area. New Bomb has a maximum treatment capacity of: 40,000 lbs/day and 3,000,000 lbs/yr of waste munitions. This capacity may be limited further due to weather conditions, air quality operating permit requirements, evidence of soil contamination, or non-compliance with Permit conditions.

NDEP is currently reviewing a multi-pathway human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) protocol for emissions during detonation. A schedule for completion of this HHERA by the Permittee can be found in the Draft Permit (**Section III.I. COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE**). If the final Risk Assessment identifies any human health or ecological risk, appropriate permit conditions shall be added to this permit through a Class 1 permit modification, requiring prior approval by the Administrator. The previous Risk Assessment, conducted in 1998, concluded that the Open Detonation Unit could be operated as proposed in the previous permit (Permit No. NEVHW0015) without exposing residents, on-site workers, or the surrounding wildlife to unsafe levels of hazardous chemicals.

In addition to unit-specific operation and maintenance requirements, the draft permit also contains a provision for: accurate waste analysis to ensure proper management of hazardous waste; a contingency plan and preparedness requirements to prevent and respond to releases of hazardous waste; personnel training requirements; inspection and record keeping requirements; and unit-specific closure requirements. HWAD will also be required to continue operation of the Western Area Demilitarization Facility (WADF) as a condition of this permit. At WADF, HWAD operates facilities to recycle, renovate, and reuse explosives that can no longer be used for their intended purpose.

## **PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION**

*Section 7004(b) of RCRA, NAC 444.8632, and 40 CFR Section 124.10* require that the public and interested agencies be given at least forty-five (45) days to comment on each draft Permit prepared under RCRA. The comment period for the Hawthorne Army Depot (HAWD) New Bomb facility will end on **September 7, 2005**. Anyone wishing to submit comments on this DRAFT PERMIT must do so within this forty-five day period.

Persons should submit written comments concerning the permit conditions to NDEP either at the Carson City address shown below, through email at [mgodbout@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:mgodbout@ndep.nv.gov), or through the website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>. Comments should include all reasonably available references, factual grounds, and supporting material.

### **Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**

**Attn: Maureen Godbout**

**901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001**

**Carson City, NV 89701-5249**

A public hearing will be held to hear further comments if a written notice of opposition is received and a request for such a hearing is submitted by **September 7, 2005**. In the event that such a public hearing is requested, a time and place for the meeting will be scheduled and announced in a separate public notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing.

NDEP will respond in writing to all comments received during the public comment period and statements heard at a public hearing, in the event one is held, when making a final decision.

Under the conditions of the DRAFT PERMIT, should it become final and there is no appeal, the facility will be allowed to continue their waste management operations and conduct the required monitoring activities subject to the terms of the permit and other applicable permits and legal requirements. The facility's waste management unit and related activities are designed to comply with current state and federal requirements.

The ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD for the DRAFT PERMIT, which includes the APPLICATION, DRAFT PERMIT, and FACT SHEET, are available for public review by appointment between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday** at the NDEP address above. Further information and copies of the FACT SHEET may be obtained by contacting **Maureen Godbout of NDEP** by phone at **(775) 687-9482**, by email at [mgodbout@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:mgodbout@ndep.nv.gov), or through the website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

A copy of the DRAFT PERMIT may also be viewed, by appointment Monday through Thursday, at the offices of **DZHC** in **Hawthorne, NV** (contact **Mark Philliber at (775) 945-7359**).

When NDEP makes a final decision to either issue or deny the permit, notice will be given to HWAD and to each person who has submitted written comments or requested a notice of the final decision. The final permit decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after service of notice of the decision unless a later date is specified or review is requested under *NAC 444.8632* and *40 CFR Section 124.19* or an appeal is filed with the State Environmental Commission (within 10 days after notice of the action of the Department) under *NAC 445B.340*. If no comments request a change in the draft permit, the final permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you believe would be interested in this matter.